

**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

Northwest  
Fisheries  
Science Center

# 2014 Science Program Reviews: Stock Assessment Process

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Northwest Fisheries Science Center

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# NOAA Fisheries Program Reviews

Are we doing good science?

Are we doing the right science?



# Why Program Reviews, Why Now?

- Beginning in Jan 2013, NOAA Fisheries is conducting a systematic review of fisheries science programs
- Peer reviews ensure delivery of high quality, trusted, timely science supporting sustainable and profitable U.S. fisheries industries and healthy domestic seafood

# Context For This Review

Background on the scope of the science at the NW Center



# NWFSC Science:

## Key marine resources and geographic range

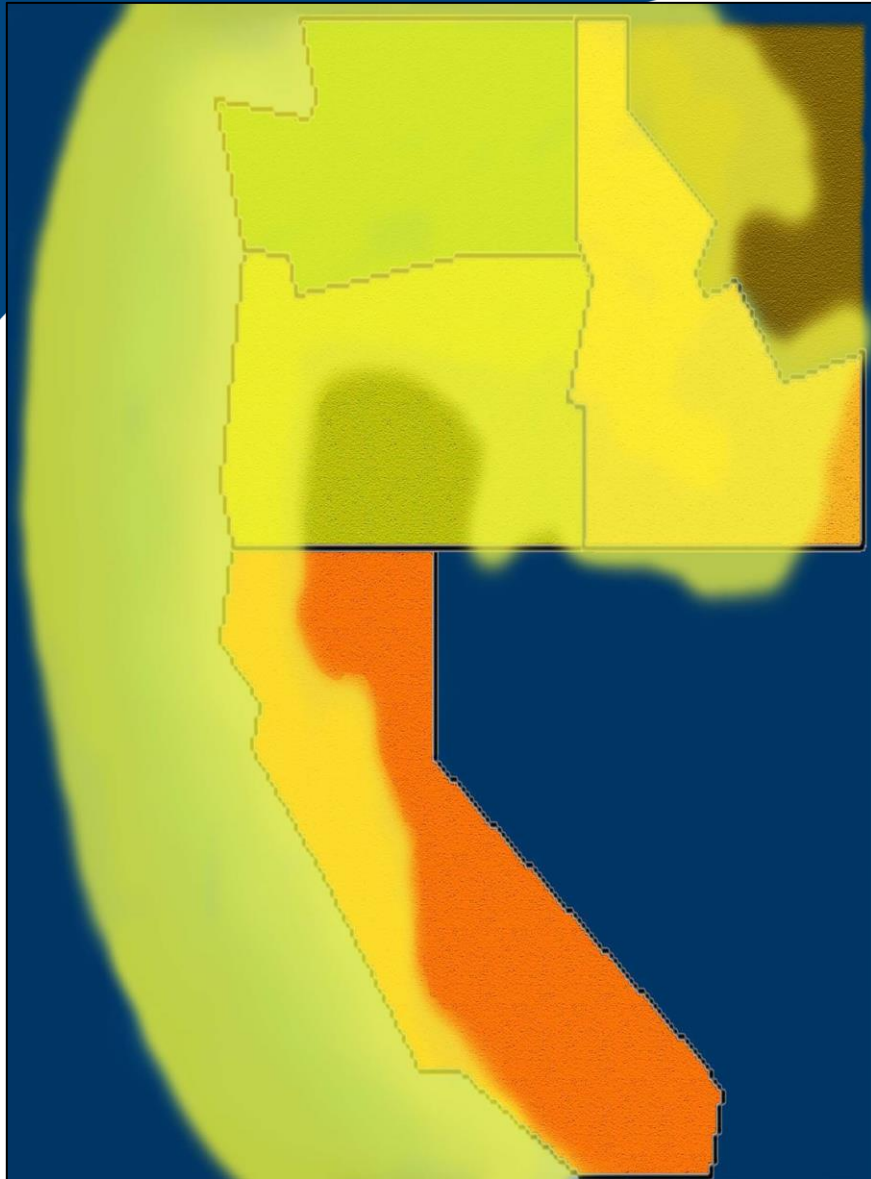
### *West Coast Groundfish*



### *Pacific Salmon*



### *Southern Resident Killer Whales*



*Geographic range of our work*



# NWFSC Strategic Plan Themes

Sustainable, Safe & Secure Seafood for  
Healthy Populations & Vibrant Communities



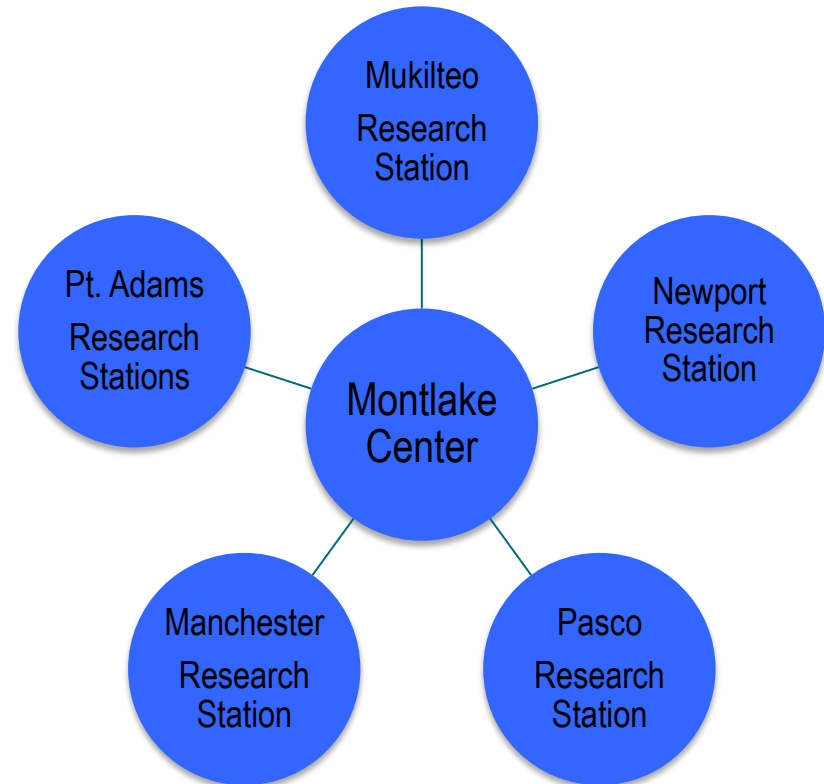
Recovery & Rebuilding of Marine  
& Coastal Species

Ecosystem Approach to Improve  
Management of Marine Resources



Habitats to Support Sustainable Fisheries  
& Recovered Populations

# Northwest Fisheries Science Center



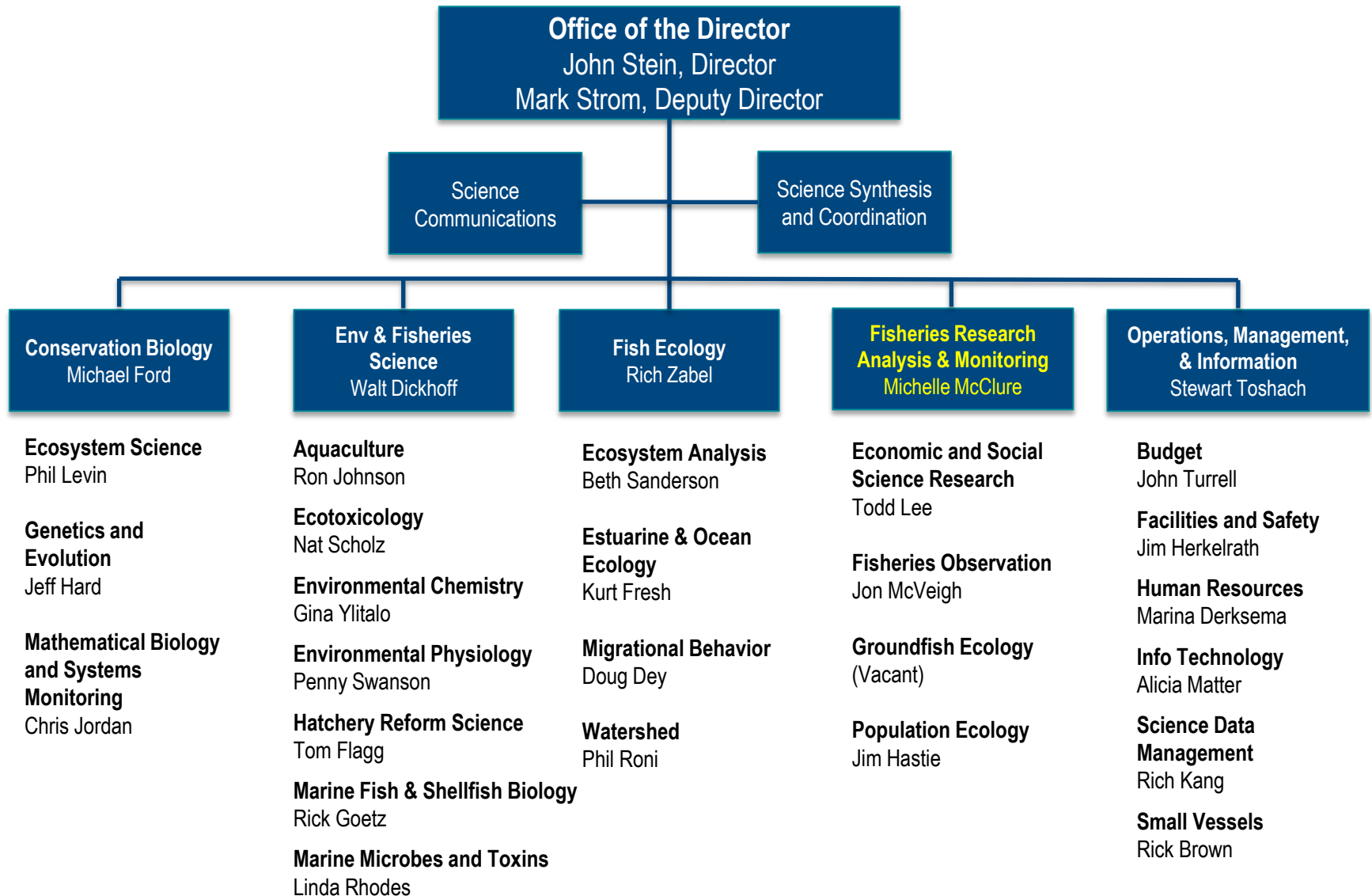
# West Coast Observers



NOAA FISHERIES



# Northwest Fisheries Science Center



# By the Numbers

- **Staff:** ca. 310 (Federal) 80 (contractors) in 6 locations
- **FY14 Funding:**
  - Approx \$53M NOAA
  - Approx \$20M outside



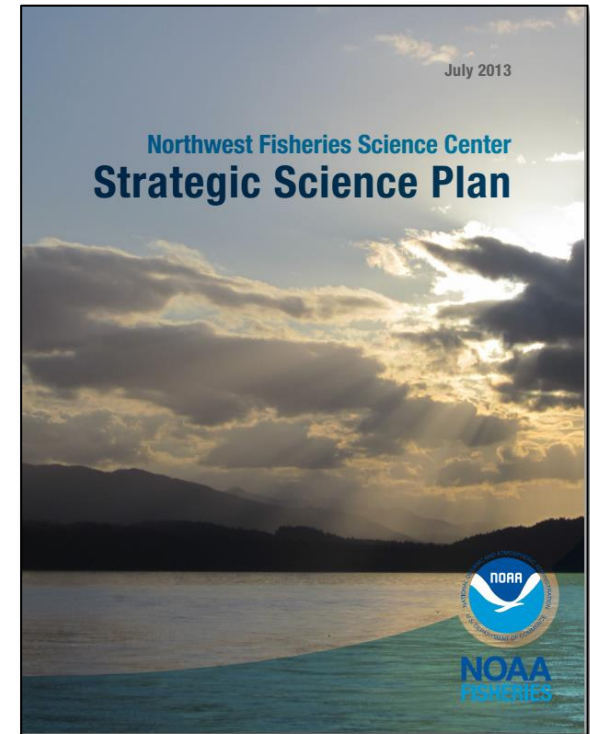
# NWFSC's Strategic Planning

2007: First Strategic Science Plan

2013: Revised Strategic Science Plan

2013 & 14: Annual guidance memos

*Planning documents support priorities  
laid out in the NMFS and NOAA Strategic  
Plans*



# NWFSC Director's Guidance for FY14

- Two Focus Areas
  - California Current Ecosystem Monitoring
  - Habitat Science



# NWFSC Director's Guidance for FY14

- Seven key funding priorities:
  - 1) Fully staff high priority west coast surveys
  - 2) Conduct groundfish and hake stock assessments for PFMCM
  - 3) Complete required observer monitoring and support electronic monitoring program development
  - 4) Provide science in support of groundfish BiOp
  - 5) Provide science to support national pesticide BiOp
  - 6) Provide science to support recovery of listed species
  - 7) Provide science supporting important salmon BiOps
  - 8) Fund FY14 aquaculture priorities



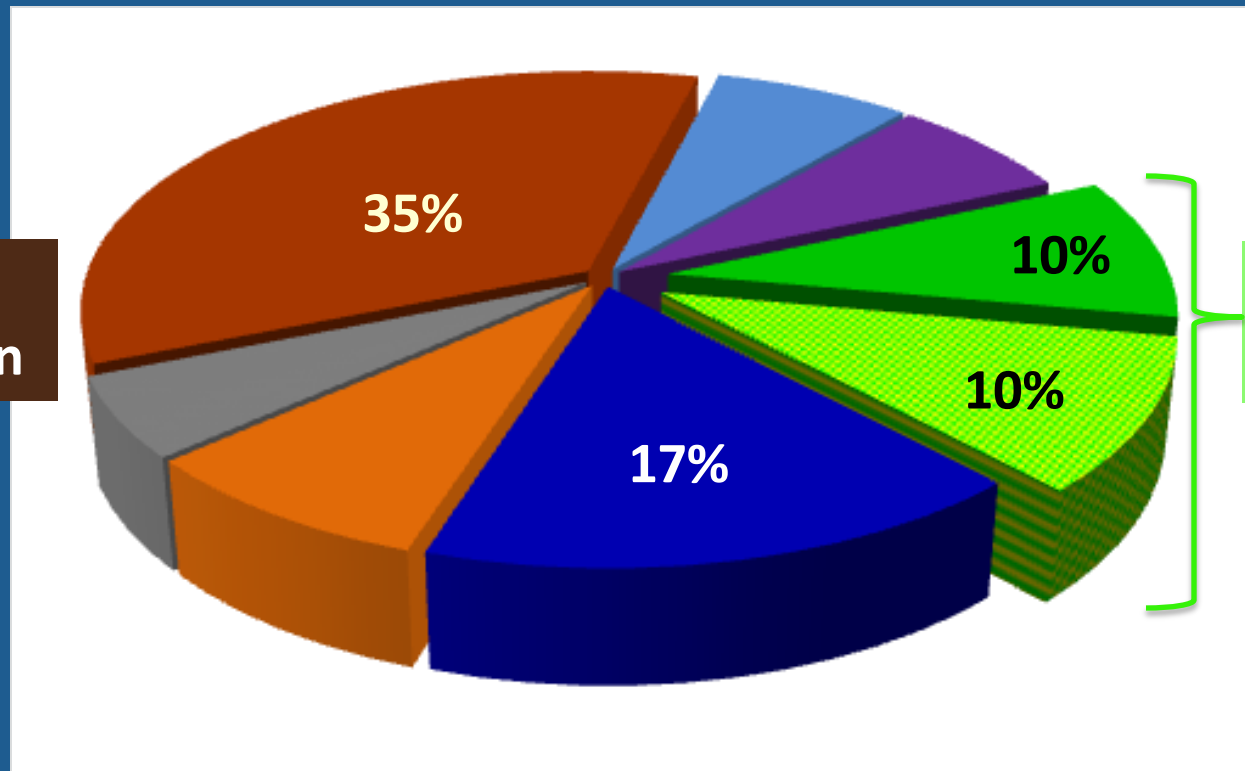
# Setting Priorities

- Strategic Plan provides foundation
- Mandates drive our priorities
- Implementation Process:
  - Online Project Database
  - Project descriptions
  - Project rankings
  - Criteria
    - Importance to mission and relationship to strategic plan, AGM
    - Relative risk (scientifically, economically, politically)

*Note: This is an evolving process.*

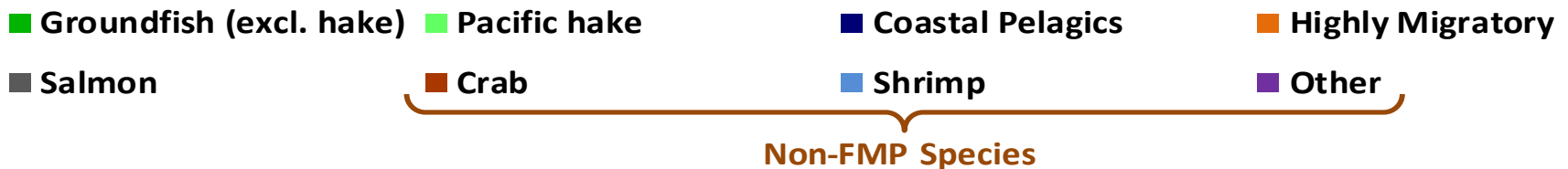


# Average 2012-13 West Coast Commercial Ex-Vessel Revenue

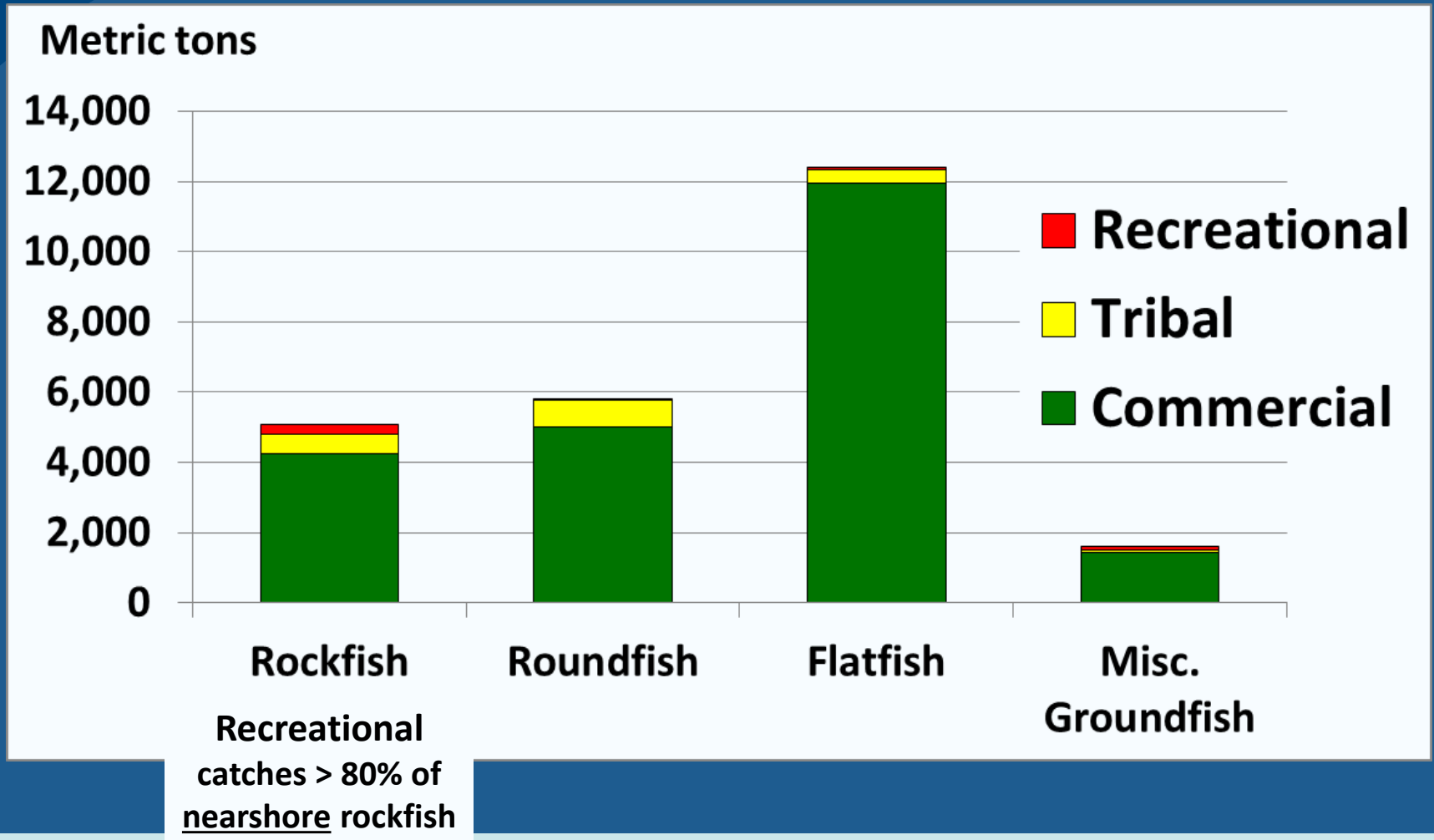


Total =  
\$530 million

Groundfish =  
\$105 million

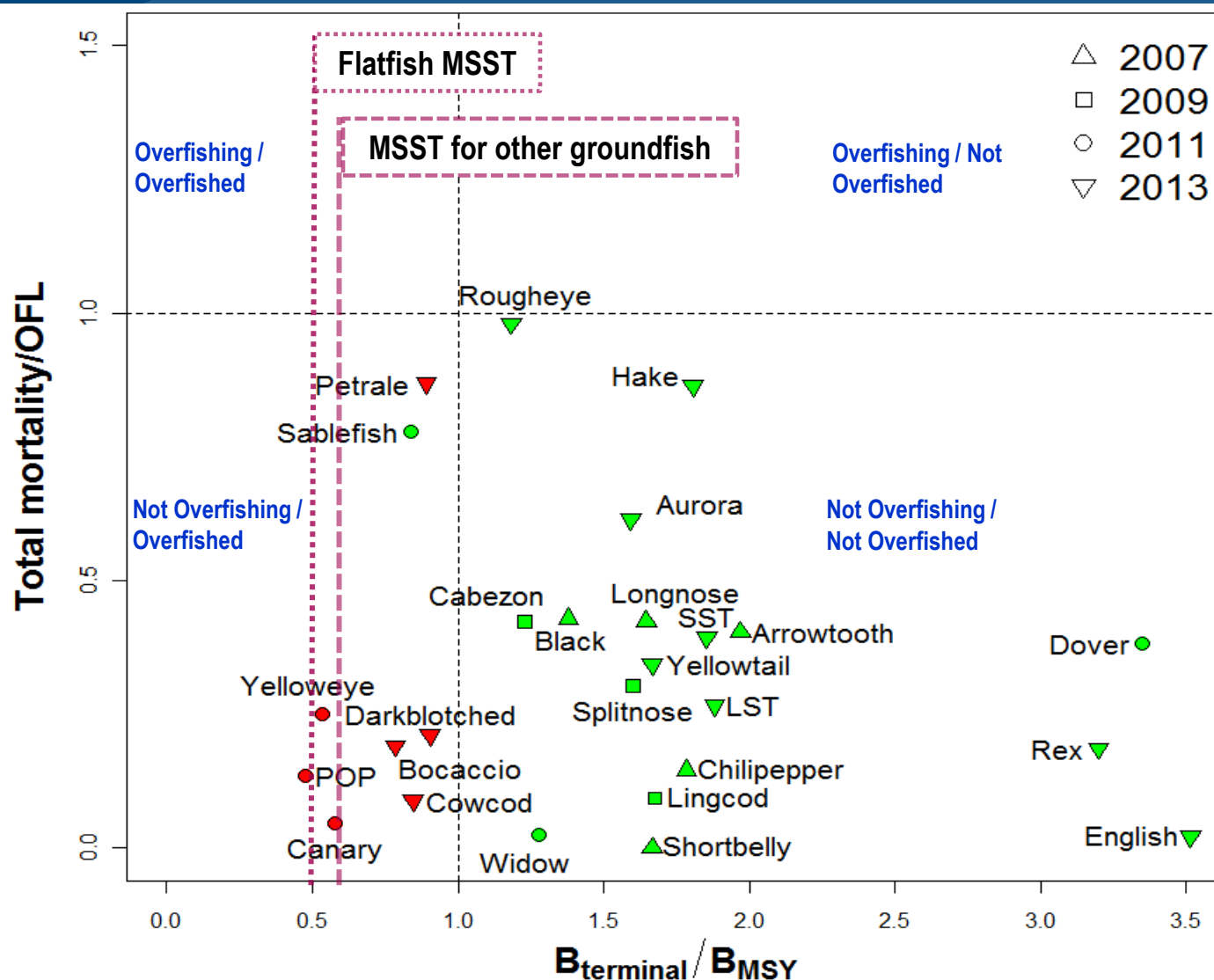


# Average 2012-13 West Coast Sector Landings of Non-Hake Groundfish



# State of the Stocks as of 2013

(assessment year noted by symbols)



# Science and Management of WC Groundfish

- Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)
  - Collaborate to set stock assessment priorities
  - STAR panels (review process)
- NW and SW Centers and West Coast Regional Office
  - Fishery-independent and observer data, stock assessments and regulatory framework
- Develop biennial harvest guidelines
- Pacific States Marine Fish Commission (PSMFC)
  - Coordinates fisheries-dependent data





# West Coast Groundfish Stock Assessments – Context

- Priority for stock assessments set with Council.  
Biennial cycle for assessments
- STAR Panels are a Council process, but highly collaborative process
- Recent development/approval of data moderate methods improves throughput



# Scope of Review (from Terms of Reference)

- West Coast Groundfish stock assessment program under MSA
- Builds on 2013 review of fishery, survey and biological data
- This year's focus is on:
  - Assessment modeling
  - Assessment approach
  - Review process
  - Communication
- Not an in-depth review of individual stock assessments

# Reviewers' Tasks

Reviewers should review and comment on (from Terms of Reference):

- 1) Does the Center **apply a suitable scientific/technical approach** to fishery stock assessment **modeling**?
- 2) Is the **assessment process efficient, effective and clearly described**, including terms of reference for assessment reports?
- 3) Does the Center, in conjunction with other entities such as the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), have an **adequate peer review process**?
- 4) Is the Center's program **organization effective at accomplishing needed assessments** according to a set of assessment priorities? Include program structure, staffing, and funding; include prioritization of stocks for assessment.



# Reviewers' Tasks, continued

Reviewers should review and comment on (from Terms of Reference):

- 5) Does the Center **achieve adequate assessment accomplishments** relative to mandates particularly with respect to the number of Fishery Management Plan (FMP) species assessed?
- 6) Does the assessment program **adequately communicate their results, needs, and research?**
- 7) Are there **opportunities for improving stock assessments** and the stock assessment process?



# Report and Report Out

- Individual reports from each member of the panel
- Chair provides a summary report
- Draft reports by end of the week, a week or so to polish
- Friday mid-morning report-out by panel





# Thank you!

# Questions?

